

Message Text

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43

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SUBJ: NIXON RESIGNATION: SUMMARY OF PRESS REACTION

1. MORNING PAPERS HEADLINED RESIGNATION AND DEVOTED UP TO EIGHT MORE PAGES TO WIRE SERVICE COVERAGE INCLUDING BACKGROUND OF THE CRISIS, NIXON'S SPEECH, BIOS OF GERALD FORD, VICE PRESIDENTIAL SPECULATION AND FOREIGN POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF THE CHANGEOVER.

2. EDITORIAL COMMENT HIGHLIGHTS A FEELING OF KINSIHP WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE U.S. AND OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT. EL DIA THUS EDITORIALIZES "AND ABOVE ALL WE REALIZE THAT WE HAVE MUCH IN COMMON WITH THE SPIRIT OF THIS (IMPEACHMENT) PROCESS. WHILE SOME WANT TO EXPLOIT RESENTMENTS BETWEEN THE SUPERDEVELOPED AND UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES, THE MORA DRAMA OF THE GOVERNED AND THEIR GOVERNMENTS IS EXACTLY THE SAME....GOOD LUCK TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES IN THIS HOUR OF AFFLICTION."

3. A TRIUMPH OFR DEMOCRACY AND THE U.S. WAS SEEN BY EL PAIS WHICH SIAD "THE PRESIDENT OF A COUNTRY HAS FALLEN IN A WAVE OF SCANDAL AND EMBARRASSMENT. BUT FEW TIMES BEFORE HAS THAT COUNTRY PROJECTED TO THE WORLD SUCH AN EXEMPLARY IMAGE". FURTHER, "THE UNITED STATES HAS WON, THROUGH THIS CONSTITUTIONAL AFFIRMATION, IN ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT TRIALS OF ITS HISTORY, A BATTLE THAT GIVES IT PRESTIGE NOT BY BEING THE FIRST TO UNRAVEL THE SECRET OF THE ATOM, THE FIRST IN MILITARY POWER, THE FIRST IN MANY TECHNICAL FIELDS, THE

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FIRST TO PUT A MAN ON THE MOON, BUT WITH THE

PRESTIGE OF A COUNTRY
WITH A CONSTITUTION WHICH NO ATTACK, CRISIS, CONVULSION OR COLLAPSE
CAN INJURE." AND EL DIA, "THER IS NO DOCTRINE IN THE UNIVERSE NOR
ANY TYPE OF ANTIIMPERIALISM WHICH ALLOWS ONE TO SHRUG ONES SHOULDERS
BEFORE THE MAJESTY OF THIS INSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM...WHICH TOPPLED A
PRESIDENT FOR VIOLATING SOME ARTICLES OF THE CONSTITUTION,
BUT WHICH RESOLVED THS IN A REFLEXIVE AND REGULATED LEGAL MANNER."

4. COMMENT. THESE HIGHLY POLITIZED, PARTY-ORIENTATED NEWSPAPERS
MUST HAVE TAKEN SUSTENANCE IN SEEING THE CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM WE
ENJOY SURVIVE A SERIOUS CRISIS. ADD TO THIS THE ROLE
OF THE PRESS IN THE UNFOLDING OF THE WATERGAGE AFFAIR AND IT IS NOT
DIFFICULT TO FATHOM THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED HERE BY EDITORS WHOSE
FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IS SEVERELY LIMITED. THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED
ARE GENUINE BUT ALSO MAY BE AN OBLIQUE COMMENT ON THE STATE OF
AFFAIRS IN URUGUAY, AS MAY HAVE BEEN THE RESOUNDING DISAPPROVAL VOICED

UPON THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT'S TAKEOVEROF THE PRESS SOME DAYS AGO.
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